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VIA ECFS

EX PARTE

July 25, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *WC Docket No. 10-90, Connect America Fund; GN Docket No. 09-51, National Broadband Plan for our Future; WC Docket No. 07-135, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; WC Docket No. 05-337, High-Cost Universal Service Support; CC Docket No. 01-92, Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; CC Docket No. 96-45, Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 25, 2012, Eric Einhorn and I, from Windstream Communications, Inc. (“Windstream”), met with Nicholas Degani, wireline legal advisor to Commission Ajit Pai. The Windstream representatives briefed Mr. Degani on Windstream’s business and overall policy priorities. The parties generally discussed Windstream’s views on universal service and intercarrier compensation reform, and the conversation was consistent with Windstream’s past filings on these topics.¹ Mr. Degani also inquired about Windstream’s views on special access reform, and Windstream’s response was consistent with its recent filings on the subject.²

¹ See, e.g., Letter from Jennie B. Chandra, Windstream, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45 (April 19, 2012) (discussing intercarrier compensation treatment of VoIP-PSTN traffic); Comments of Windstream Communications on Sections XVII.L-R, Inc., WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, WT Docket No. 10-208 (February 24, 2012) (responding to Commission’s proposals and questions regarding intercarrier compensation reform); Comments of Windstream Communications on Sections XVII.A-K, Inc., WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, GN Docket No. 09-51, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, WT Docket No. 10-208, at 16-32 (January 18, 2012) (noting

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Malena F. Barzilai

Malena F. Barzilai

cc: Nicholas Degani

that Connect America Fund Phase II for price cap carriers should incorporate a viable model, a targeted and efficient competitive bidding process, and alignment of support and obligations).

² See, e.g., Letter from Malena F. Barzilai, Windstream, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 05-25 (July 16, 2012); Letter from Malena F. Barzilai, Windstream, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 05-25, WCB/Pricing Docket No. 12-06 (June 20, 2012).